

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Richfield Draft Resource Management Plan
Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DRMP/DEIS)**

Lead Agency:

Bureau of Land Management
Richfield Field Office
Richfield, Utah

Cooperating Agencies:

State of Utah
Garfield, Piute, Sanpete, Sevier and Wayne
Counties, Utah

For Further Information, Contact:

Wayne Wetzel
Bureau of Land Management
Richfield Field Office
150 East, 900 North
Richfield, Utah 84701
(435) 896-1500
Email: UT_Richfield_Comments@blm.gov
Web Page:
<http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/richfield/planning.html>

Abstract

The Richfield Draft Resource Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DRMP/DEIS) identifies and analyzes five alternatives for future management of the public lands and resources and the effect of those management alternatives on land administered by the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) Richfield (Utah) Field Office (RFO). Alternative B is the preferred alternative. The planning area includes 2.1 million acres of public land and 95,000 subsurface acres where the surface rights belong to the state or private parties (split estate lands) wholly within Sanpete, Sevier, Piute, and Wayne counties and partially within Garfield and Kane counties. The DRMP/DEIS was prepared in cooperation with the Garfield, Piute, Sanpete, Sevier, and Wayne county governments; the State of Utah; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and other Federal agencies.

The planning area encompasses mountains, canyons, plateaus and deserts of the Great Basin and Colorado Plateau physiographic provinces, including the Henry Mountains, Parker Mountain, the Sevier, Fremont and Dirty Devil Rivers, North and South Caineville Mesas and Factory Butte. The public lands border portions of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Capitol Reef and Canyonlands National Parks, and the Dixie, Fishlake, Manti-LaSal, and Uinta National Forests.

The DRMP/DEIS fulfills the legal requirements set forth in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), and other Federal laws, regulations and policies. The public lands are currently managed under six different land use plans adopted between 16 and 30 years ago. Major issues identified during scoping and addressed in the DRMP/DEIS include off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, energy development, scenery and recreation, and special designations. Five alternatives have been considered. Alternative N would continue existing management (no action). Alternatives A, B, C, and D represent variations from existing management, and include a range from emphasizing resource use and development to emphasizing conservation and protection of natural and sensitive resources. Alternative B is the BLM's preferred alternative. This alternative would provide a

balanced approach of protecting and conserving the public land and resources while providing for commodity production and mineral extraction. Alternative B would also apply special designations and restrictive management prescriptions anywhere needed to protect threatened or otherwise important resources.

Publication of the DRMP/DEIS will be followed by a 90-day public comment period, preparation of a final EIS and proposed RMP, governor's consistency review, protest period and, finally, a record of decision (ROD) and approved resource management plan (RMP). Comments on this DRMP/DEIS must be received within 90 days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes its notice of availability in the Federal Register. Comments should be addressed to the Richfield Office at the address above. The BLM's Utah State Director will be the deciding official for the ROD.